

PERCENT OF MOTHERS OBTAINING NO PRENATAL CARE IN FIRST TRIMESTER BY COUNTY AND RACE

Objective

By 1990, the proportion of women in any county or racial or ethnic group (e.g., Black, Hispanic, American Indian) who obtain no prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy should not exceed 10 percent.

Explanatory Notes

These percentages are based on live births, and those with unknown month of first prenatal care visit have been eliminated from the denominator. By race, percentages are calculated for whites and nonwhites. N.C. data were not tabulated prior to 1974.

Findings

In 1986, all counties except Wilkes exceeded the national objective of 10 percent. The county percentages ranged from 9.7 in Wilkes to 40.4 in Sampson. Closest to Wilkes in achieving the target were Stokes (11.4%), Dare (12.6%), and Chowan (12.8%). See table on page 36.

For whites, the percentage of mothers obtaining no care in the first trimester has consistently been lower in North Carolina than in the U.S. This is also true for nonwhites, beginning in 1982. However, an increase in the N.C. nonwhite percentage occurred in 1986, and for both race groups, projections based on 1982-1986 trends suggest little further improvement by 1990. The U.S. also is not expected to meet this objective for any race group. Four states are projected to meet the goal for white women but none is expected to achieve the goal for minorities (3).

Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health Statistics
United States: National Center for Health Statistics

